

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Cancel Claim 18 without prejudice. Please accept amended Claim 16 and new Claims 32-34 as follows:

1-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for dynamically converting electronically encoded HTML textual content from a text format to an image format, comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for the textual content from a client;

obtaining, at a server, the textual content in text format;

determining a content creation preference stored on the server; and

converting, automatically by the server, the textual content in text format to the textual content in the image format according to the content creation preference;

storing the textual content in the image format; and

generating an HTML document containing a an inline reference to the stored textual content in the image format for retrieval and ~~inline~~ dynamic assembly by the client; and

replying to the request by serving the HTML document  
containing the inline reference to the stored textual content  
in the image format, wherein the reply does not include the  
textual content in the image format.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of extracting the content in text format from the obtained content in the text format.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of applying a watermark to the content in the image format according to a watermarking preference.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of compressing the watermarked image according to a compression preference stored on the server.

21. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of generating an image map according to a mapping preference, wherein the image map relates selectable spatial display coordinates to external document identifiers.

22-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a client system request for verification of the watermarked content;

verifying the watermarked content; and

replying to the client system request for verification.

25-31. (Cancelled)

32. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the content creation preference specifies attributes of the textual content in image format.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, whererin the attributes of the textual content in image format include at least one of font, font size, color, and margins.

34. (New) The method of claim 16, further comprising requesting, by the client, the textual content in the image format according to the inline reference.